

## School Council Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, September 19, 2023

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm by Scott Sherman

In attendance: Scott Sherman, Faye Holt, John Evans, Yvonne, Mr. Merkle, Cassandra, Sheryl-Ann, Sarah, Jerry, Carmen, Lana, Natalie, Amy, Dave, Jenessa

### Trustee Report – John

- New communications manager for FSD
  - o Posting new Footnotes newsletter every month on the website
- June Footnotes recap
  - o Budget has 1 million dollar deficit even with funding from AB ed
    - Funding sounded like a lot but it is split between all school divisions over 3 years and wasn't quite enough to balance budget
  - o Increased costs due to more substitute teachers and busing
  - o FSD decided not to implement bus fee for students/families this year
  - o Next year there is a decreased radius (1 km limit) for busing to schools
    - Need to buy 20 new buses as a result
      - Issues: limited inventory, need to buy used, out of province
    - 18 more bus drivers need to be hired
- Working on getting more parents involved in school councils within FSD
- Working on Governance Quality Standard
  - o Set of rules for trustees to follow and rules for the public to hold the trustees to
    - Including school visits, indigenous learning, etc
  - o will be made public on the website
- City of Calgary withdrew application to annex part of Foothills County
  - o Good for FSD students
- Opening Day celebrations for staff went well
  - o School spirit themed

### Admin Report – Faye

- Government requiring grade 2 and 3 literacy and numeracy assessments to be done by the end of September
- The rest of the school will be doing numeracy assessments by the end of October
  - o Allows for small group interventions, etc
- Grade 5-6 Senator Riley, Cayley, and Blackie School internet safety talk/presentation
  - o Parent evening September 20 about internet safety
- Grade 6-8 flag football has started
- There is a cold/illness currently running through the school
- PD day is on Friday
- Terry Fox run was last Friday

### School Needs/School Council Projects

- Chromebook cart may need replaced (Faye)

- New batteries and charging technology now
- Old chromebook batteries “bubbling”
- One half/side of cart does not work
- Gym equipment request from Ms. Battum
  - Fundraising committee to work on this
  - Gaga ball pits are being ordered in order to use up the playground credit from renovation
    - Still waiting for FSD approval before they can be installed
    - Have playground credit from one swing bay that could not be installed due to sinkhole issue
  - Question about benevolent fund for parents in need? (Faye)
    - It doesn't look like parent council has contributed to one recently
    - Some parents seem to remember having one in the past

#### Younger Grade Extracurricular Activities

- Will be looking into it (Faye)
- Question about cheer continuing?
  - Cheer coach has left the school so this is not an option (Faye)
- If parents have a skill and is willing to step up and run a program, this would be welcome
  - Or older children with teacher supervision
- Parents suggestion to try to use the rink next door for a “learn to skate” type program

#### Swimming/Skating/Curling (Scott)

- Skiing
  - tricky due to insurance issues
- Swimming lessons feedback from teachers last year
  - More time spent on the bus to High River than in the pool
  - Preferred the swim day at Vulcan at the end of last year
- Curling
  - Jill has been looking into setting this up for January

#### Band Grade 7/8

- Follow up about grade 7/8 issues with band last year
- Scott arranged for Calgary Jazz Orchestra to help with 7/8 band, if the school is interested
  - Has put them in contact with Dylan Wiest
  - They offered to come do a concert for the kids, to come out and work with them, to play the music that they will be working on this year
- Grade 6 class seems excited about band this year so far (Faye)

#### Next meeting is AGM

- Election of council executive if anyone is interested in stepping up

#### Stem Club (Scott)

- Scott could do projects with the kids after school a couple times a year
- This was done in the past before the pandemic, but has not restarted
- Will busy schedule, would really appreciate other parents/support or help if anyone has expertise in this area

#### CTF Discussion and Parent Questions

- Junior high did shop projects last year
  - o Hope this continues this year
- They have a classroom for CTF here at Blackie with some equipment
- Look into doing Skills Canada/Alberta again in December (Faye)

#### Hot Lunch Program is coming soon

- Parent volunteers are working on this

Meeting Adjourned at 7:33pm.

Next meeting (AGM) is Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at 6:30pm.